

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07498 031621Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----040021Z 111702 /63  
R 031512Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4627  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7498

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, US, IS  
SUBJECT: AMOCO EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) CAIRO 6447, (B) CAIRO 5060, (C) CAIRO 6625

1. REPORTS OF AMOCO DISCOVERY IN GULF OF SUEZ (BLOCK 195)  
SEVERAL KILOMETERS OFF SHORE AT ABU RUDEIS, AND PLANS FOR MOVING  
MARINER DRILLING RIG, WHICH MADE DISCOVERY, DESCRIBED REFTELS  
A AND B. AMOCO EGYPT MANAGER CRAIG INFORMED EMBOFF MAY 2 THAT  
MARINER STILL HAS ABOUT TEN DAYS OF TESTING LEFT AT 195 SITE AND  
THE NEW DRILLING LOCATION HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. CURRENT  
WELL HAS BEEN TESTED AT 4200 BARRELS PER DAY (CAPACITY OF TESTER)  
AND AMOCO BELIEVES THEY HAVE COMMERCIAL DISCOVERY. AT LEAST TWO  
MORE WELLS WILL HAVE TO BE DRILLED, HOWEVER, BEFORE ANY REAL SIZE  
ESTIMATES CAN BE GIVEN. NEVERTHELESS, CRAIG SAID, DISCOVERY  
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER JULY FIELD IN TERMS OF SIZE AND POTENTIAL  
PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY. (JULY FIELD CURRENTLY PRODUCING ABOUT  
100,000 BPD.).

2. REGARDING NEW SITE FOR MARINER, EGPC CHAIRMAN LEITHY  
AND MINPET HILAL WANT MARINER TO STAY AT BLOCK 195 DISCOVERY  
AND MAKE NECESSARY TEST WELLS TO PROVE OUT THE STRIKE.  
ON ITS PART, AMOCO WANTS TO MOVE RIG NORTH TO POSITION JUST  
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SOUTH OF SUEZ CITY WHERE AMOCO HAS EXPLORATION COMMITMENT TO  
DRILL WELL IN NEXT FEW WEEKS OR IT WILL LOSE RIGHTS TO  
ACREAGE. CONTRARY TO POSITION MINPET TOOK SEVERAL MONTHS AGO  
(CAIRO REF B) THERE HAS BEEN NO TALK OF MOVING MARINER BACK TO  
SITE 304.1. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE CONTRAST OF THIS INFORMATION  
TO THAT OF FOREIGN MINISTER (REF C).

3. EMBOFF NOTED THAT WITH THESE PROMISING AREAS NORTH OF ISRAELI-CONTROLLED ZONE, ONE MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT RETURN TO EASTERN SIDE OF GULF OF SUEZ NOT AS NECESSARY AS DESCRIBED LAST FALL. CRAIG DISAGREED. HE MAINTAINED HIS COMPANY SERIOUSLY HANDICAPPED BY LACK OF ACCESS TO EASTERN SIDE GULF OF SUEZ, WHERE ONLY "REAL" PROSPECTS FOR OIL ARE TO BE FOUND.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS INCREASINGLY OUR OPINION THAT AMOCO'S INSISTENCE ON NECESSITY OF ACCESS TO ISRAELI-CONTROLLED ZONE IN GULF OF SUEZ IS AT LEAST PARTLY SELF-SERVING, CRAIG'S COMMENTS MAKE IT CLEAR IT IS AMOCO'S FIRM PUBLIC POLICY THAT EFFORTS TO RAISE OIL PRODUCTION BY ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT ARE DEPENDENT ON FREE ACCESS TO EASTERN GULF ACREAGE.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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